



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
Cornelia Gibbons
Director

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Gibbons Retiring from Office on Aging; Easterday to Be Interim Director

Nela Gibbons, Director of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, will retire shortly after Labor Day to help market South Carolina's first Medicare managed care program targeting chronically ill seniors, Lt. Governor André Bauer said Tuesday.

"Two years ago when the General Assembly and the Governor moved the Office on Aging under me, I knew that I needed to find an excellent leader to help South Carolina prepare for an aging population that is doubling in size, and I chose Nela Gibbons to be the Director of my Office on Aging because of her longstanding history of service to our state in many capacities," said Bauer.

"Working with AARP, the Silver Haired Legislature, the long term care industry, and all of the other public and not-for-profit entities that make up South Carolina's senior community, we have accomplished a tremendous amount in two years, and Nela has been an integral part of that effort," he said. "It's obvious to me why a company like XLHealth would want to have her on their team. The individual that replaces Nela will have some large shoes to fill, but the framework for a new way of delivering aging services that she and I have worked so hard to put in place will make that job a little easier for them."

Gibbons, whose 28 years in state government included stints as a Deputy in the Sanford administration's Department of Health and Human Services and health care advisor to former Gov. David Beasley, said she will be the community marketing director for XLHealth's Care Improvement Plus plan which will focus exclusively on the unique healthcare needs of 160,000 chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries living with diabetes, heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and end stage renal disease.

"I will work in community marketing to help our chronically ill seniors learn about this special opportunity to better manage their conditions and provide the services and medications they need from their own doctors. Research we have done in the Office on Aging has convinced me that better methods of managing chronic diseases are essential both to improve the quality of life of our seniors and to reduce the cost of healthcare so that Medicare remains solvent," she said.

Bauer said his current chief of staff, Mike Easterday, will serve as interim director.

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